

Comment Period Extended 15 Days for Draft Secretarial Order Revising Rules for Co-Development Of Oil and Gas and Potash Resources in Southeast New Mexico

A draft Order to promote orderly and safe development of oil and gas and potash resources was announced by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on July 12, 2012 initiating a 30 day comment period. Public comment on the draft order was encouraged so that all comments could be considered in the final rule, which is expected to be completed later this year.

Additional time to comment on a Draft Secretarial Order was requested by a letter received by the Department of Interior on August 10, 2012 from Senators Udall and Bingaman. This petition was made to allow the State of New Mexico, affected counties, affected companies, and citizens to provide additional comments. The Senators also requested that stakeholder meetings be held in Eddy and Lea Counties New Mexico. Granting of the extension will allow interested parties more time to better consider the implications of the proposed secretarial guidance and to formulate substantive and meaningful comments for the Secretary to consider in a final rule.

Decision To Extend Comment Period Granted

A comment period of 15 days is hereby granted in order to allow sufficient time for interested parties to provide comments for consideration in the final Secretarial Order—further extensions will not be granted. The comment period will end on August 31, 2012 and no further extensions will be granted.

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